GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4476
ANSWERED ON:17.04.2001
DIGGING OF TUNNEL ON BORDER
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item regarding digging of the tunnel started from within the Pakistan territory which penetrates deep into the Indian side crossing the fence, appearing in `The Times of India` dated March 7, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have registered any protest with the Government of Pakistan in the matter;

(d) if so, the reaction of Pakistan Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. A tunnel was detected on 1st March, 2001 between point numbers 9 and 10 of border pillar number 20 near BSF post Chountra (District Gurdaspur).The tunnel was about 135 yards long out of which about 50 yards fell in the Pakistani territory. It`s dimension was about 2 feet by 3 feet and its opening also fell in the Pakistani territory. The digging of the tunnel was still in progress at the time of its discovery.

A strong protest was lodged by the Border Security Force with the Pakistani Rangers.The Pakistani Rangers have destroyed the tunnel lying in their territory and closed its opening.

Domination and vigilance in the area has been enhanced by Border Security Force to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future.